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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS,
WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>13 October 2008</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-22</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) <u>1-8,17,21 and 22</u> is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>9-16 and 18-20</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>23 August 2004</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/13/2008,10/30/2008</u>.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed on 13 October 2008 has been acknowledged. Claims 9 – 11, 14 –

16 and 18 are amended. Upon the restriction/election, Claims 9 – 16 and 18 – 20 are

elected. Therefore, Claims 9 – 16 and 18 – 20 are examined as set forth.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2.   The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* **v.** *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148

USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining

obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

    1.   Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
    2.   Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
    3.   Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
    4.   Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating
            obviousness or nonobviousness.

3.   **Claims 9 – 11, 14 – 16 and 18 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as**

being unpatentable over Tibbs et al. (Hereinafter Tibbs) (US 20020010689) in view

of Tsunenari et al. (Hereinafter Tsunenari) (US 20020013744).

As per Claim 9, Tibbs teaches a method for monitoring the use of a return-shipping label (Abstract), the method comprising the steps of:

receiving notification that a customer desires to return an item to a merchant (Figure 1, Figure 3, Figure 4f and Paragraph 29 – 31 teaches system receive the return request from customer);

creating a return-shipping label for the customer's use said return-shipping label comprising return-shipping label data (Figure 3, Figure 5 and Paragraph 34 teaches creating return-shipping label for the customer including return label data);

making the return-shipping label available for the customer's use (Figure 6 and Paragraph 34 teaches making return-shipping label available for the customer to use);

recording at least a time and date the return-shipping label was made available for the customer's use and storing at least the time and the date the return-shipping label was made available for the customer's use with the return-shipping label data on the service provider computer (Figure 3 and paragraph 36 and 38 teaches sending email notification to vendor and customer concerning the returning product when return label is generated. Email contains time and date and more information. Therefore, the Examiner construes that system sending email to the vendor and customer is equivalent to recording the time and date of the return-shipping label was made available to the customer because email contains time and date information)

making available to the merchant via the service provider computer at least the date and time the return-shipping label was made available for the customer's use (Figure 3 and paragraph 36 and 38 teaches sending email notification to vendor and

customer concerning the returning product when return label is generated. Email contains time and date and more information. Therefore, the Examiner construes that system sending email to the vendor and customer is equivalent to recording the time and date of the return-shipping label was made available to the customer because email contains time and date information);

notifying the customer of the return-shipping label's availability (Paragraph 38 teaches the email with web link for the return shipping label is sent to the customer);

receiving by service provider computer a network request to retrieve the return-shipping label, wherein such network request originates with the customer (Figure 3, Figure 4d, Figure 4e, Figure 4f, Figure 6 and Paragraph 27 teaches a merchant system receive a customer's request to return item, and customer access return label on the merchant website after return request is approved wherein the return label is generated by service provider computer).

However, Tibbs is silent regarding recording by the service provider computer at least a date and time of the network request and storing at least the date and the time of the network request with the return-shipping label data; and

making available to the merchant via the service provider computer the date and time of the network request.

Tsunenari discloses system and methods to effect return of a customer product recording at least a date and time of the network request and storing at least the date and the time of the network request with the return-shipping label data (Paragraph 83 teaches recording time when the return shipping label is provided to the customer);

making available to the merchant via the service provider computer the date and

time of the network request (Figure 10K teaches manufacturer/merchant website

display the time when customer accessed and retrieved the return label).

Therefore, from this teaching of Tsunenari, it would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify generating return

shipping label upon the request of customer for return product of Tibbs to include record

time and date when customer access and obtain the return shipping label as taught by

Tsunenari to confirm that customer retrieve the return shipping label and merchant is

aware of the customer retrieving the return shipping label.

Furthermore, all the claimed elements were known in the Tibbs and Tsunenari

and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known

methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have

yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention.

As per Claim 10, Tibbs teaches providing the return-shipping label to the

customer (Figure 3, Figure 5 and Paragraph 38 teaches creating and providing return-

shipping label for the customer);

receiving at least a time and date that a package bearing the return- shipping

label is received by a commercial carrier (Figure 3 and Paragraph 42 teaches delivery

package is scanned and the package is continuously tracked throughout the delivery. In

order to track delivery, it requires receiving date and time data and recording date and

time data into the system. Therefore, the Examiner construes that tracking the package

throughout the delivery is equivalent to receiving and recording the date and time of the

package delivered by the commercial carrier); and

recording by service provider computer at least the time and date that the

package bearing the return-shipping label is received by the commercial carrier and

storing at least the time and the date the package bearing the return-shipping label is

received by the commercial carrier with the return-shipping label data (Figure 3 and

Paragraph 42 teaches delivery package is scanned and the package is continuously

tracked throughout the delivery. In order to track delivery, it requires receiving date and

time data and recording date and time data into the system. Therefore, the Examiner

construes that tracking the package throughout the delivery is equivalent to receiving

and recording the date and time of the package delivered by the commercial carrier).

However, Tibbs is silent regarding recording at least a time and date the

customer was provided the return-shipping label and storing at least the time and date

the customer was provided the return-shipping label with the return-shipping label data.

Tsunenari discloses system and methods to effect return of a customer product

recording at least a time and date the customer was provided the return- shipping label

and storing at least the time and date the customer was provided the return-shipping

label with the return-shipping label data (Paragraph 83 and Figure 10K).

Therefore, from this teaching of Tsunenari, it would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify generating return

shipping label upon the request of customer for return product of Tibbs to include record

time and date when customer access and obtain the return shipping label as taught by Tsunenari to confirm that customer retrieve the return shipping label.

Furthermore, all the claimed elements were known in the Tibbs and Tsunenari and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention.

As per Claim 11, Tibbs teaches making available to the merchant at least the time and date the package bearing the return-shipping label is received by the commercial carrier (Figure 3 and Paragraph 42 teaches delivery package is scanned and the package is continuously tracked throughout the delivery. In order to track delivery, it requires receiving date and time data and recording date and time data into the system. Therefore, the Examiner construes that tracking the package throughout the delivery is equivalent to receiving and recording the date and time of the package delivered by the commercial carrier).

However, Tibbs is silent regarding recording at least the date and time the customer obtained the return-shipping label.

Tsunenari discloses system and methods to effect return of a customer product recording at least the date and time the customer obtained the return-shipping label (Paragraph 83 teaches recording time when the return shipping label is provided to the customer).

Therefore, from this teaching of Tsunenari, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify generating return shipping label upon the request of customer for return product of Tibbs to include record time and date when customer access and obtain the return shipping label as taught by Tsunenari to confirm that customer retrieve the return shipping label.

Furthermore, all the claimed elements were known in the Tibbs and Tsunenari and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention.

As per Claim 14, Tibbs teaches wherein at least the date and time the return-shipping label was made available to the customer (Figure 3 and paragraph 36 and 38 teaches sending email notification to vendor and customer concerning the returning product when return label is generated. Email contains time and date and more information. Therefore, the Examiner construes that system sending email to the vendor and customer is equivalent to recording the time and date of the return-shipping label was made available to the customer because email contains time and date information),

at least the time and date the package bearing the return-shipping label is received by the commercial carrier, are made available to the merchant so that the merchant can develop a reasonable estimate of the date the return item will arrive at a location designated by the merchant (Figure 3 and Paragraph 42 teaches delivery package is scanned and the package is continuously tracked throughout the delivery. In

order to track delivery, it requires receiving date and time data and recording date and time data into the system. Therefore, the Examiner construes that tracking the package throughout the delivery is equivalent to receiving and recording the date and time of the package delivered by the commercial carrier).

However, Tibbs is silent regarding recording the date and time of the customer's network request to retrieve to the return-shipping label, and at least the date and time the customer obtained the return-shipping label.

Tsunenari discloses system and methods to effect return of a customer product recording the date and time of the customer's network request to retrieve to the return-shipping label, and at least the date and time the customer obtained the return-shipping label (Paragraph 83 teaches recording time when the return shipping label is provided to the customer).

Therefore, from this teaching of Tsunenari, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify generating return shipping label upon the request of customer for return product of Tibbs to include record time and date when customer access and obtain the return shipping label as taught by Tsunenari to confirm that customer retrieve the return shipping label.

Furthermore, all the claimed elements were known in the Tibbs and Tsunenari and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention.

As per Claim 15, Tibbs teaches receiving by the service provider computer at least a time and date the package bearing the return-shipping label is delivered by the commercial carrier (Figure 3 and Paragraph 42 teaches delivery package is scanned and the package is continuously tracked throughout the delivery. In order to track delivery, it requires receiving date and time data and recording date and time data into the system. Therefore, the Examiner construes that tracking the package throughout the delivery is equivalent to receiving and recording the date and time of the package delivered by the commercial carrier);

recording by a service provider computer at least the time and date the package bearing the return- shipping label is delivered by the commercial carrier and storing at least the time and date the package bearing the return-shipping label is delivered by the commercial carrier (Figure 3 and Paragraph 42 teaches delivery package is scanned and the package is continuously tracked throughout the delivery. In order to track delivery, it requires receiving date and time data and recording date and time data into the system. Therefore, the Examiner construes that tracking the package throughout the delivery is equivalent to receiving and recording the date and time of the package delivered by the commercial carrier); and

making available to the merchant via the service provider computer at least the time and date the package bearing the return-shipping label is delivered by the commercial carrier (Figure 3 and Paragraph 42 teaches delivery package is scanned and the package is continuously tracked throughout the delivery. In order to track delivery, it requires receiving date and time data and recording date and time data into

the system. Therefore, the Examiner construes that tracking the package throughout the

delivery is equivalent to receiving and recording the date and time of the package

delivered by the commercial carrier).

As per Claim 16, Tibbs teaches wherein at least the date and time the return-

shipping label was made available to the customer (Figure 3 and paragraph 36 and 38

teaches sending email notification to vendor and customer concerning the returning

product when return label is generated. Email contains time and date and more

information. Therefore, the Examiner construes that system sending email to the vendor

and customer is equivalent to recording the time and date of the return-shipping label

was made available to the customer because email contains time and date information),

at least the time and date the package bearing the return-shipping label is

received by the commercial carrier (Figure 3 and Paragraph 42 teaches delivery

package is scanned and the package is continuously tracked throughout the delivery. In

order to track delivery, it requires receiving date and time data and recording date and

time data into the system. Therefore, the Examiner construes that tracking the package

throughout the delivery is equivalent to receiving and recording the date and time of the

package delivered by the commercial carrier), and

at least the time and date the package bearing the return-shipping label is

delivered by the commercial carrier, are made available to the merchant so that the

merchant can develop a reasonable estimate of the date the return item arrives at a

location designated by the merchant (Figure 3 and Paragraph 42 teaches delivery

package is scanned and the package is continuously tracked throughout the delivery. In order to track delivery, it requires receiving date and time data and recording date and time data into the system. Therefore, the Examiner construes that tracking the package throughout the delivery is equivalent to receiving and recording the date and time of the package delivered by the commercial carrier).

However, Tibbs is silent regarding recording the date and time of the customer's network request to retrieve the return-shipping label, and at least the date and time the customer obtained the return-shipping label.

Tsunenari discloses system and methods to effect return of a customer product recording the date and time of the customer's network request to retrieve the return-shipping label, and at least the date and time the customer obtained the return-shipping label (Paragraph 83 teaches recording time when the return shipping label is provided to the customer).

Therefore, from this teaching of Tsunenari, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify generating return shipping label upon the request of customer for return product of Tibbs to include record time and date when customer access and obtain the return shipping label as taught by Tsunenari to confirm that customer retrieve the return shipping label.

Furthermore, all the claimed elements were known in the Tibbs and Tsunenari and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention.

As per Claim 18, Tibbs teaches providing a merchant computer with an application for generating a return-shipping label for use by a customer to return an item purchased from the vendor (Figure 3, Figure 5 and Paragraph 34 teaches creating return-shipping label for the customer);

receiving a communication from a customer desiring to return an item purchased from the merchant (Figure 1, Figure 3, Figure 4f and Paragraph 29 – 31 teaches system receive the return request from customer);

in response to the customer's communication, executing the application with the merchant computer to generate an electronic return-shipping label for transmission to the customer via a network (Figure 3, Figure 5 and Paragraph 34 teaches creating return-shipping label for the customer);

executing the application to transmit data necessary for shipping the item to a designated return location from the merchant computer to a service provider computer via a network (Figure 3, Figure 4D, Figure 4F and Paragraph 27 – 32 teaches merchant server and customer who is connected to the merchant server transmitting all return item data to the service provider computer using network such as internet);

generating a return-shipping label for returning an item at the service provider computer, said return-shipping label comprising return-shipping label data (Figure 5 and Paragraph 34 teaches generating return–shipping label);

transmitting a notification of availability of the return-shipping label for download to a customer via a network, the notification having a network resource identifier to

identify a network location for downloading the electronic return-shipping label

(Paragraph 38 teaches the email with web link for the return shipping label is sent to the

customer);

    recording by the service provider computer at least a date and time that the

notification was made to the customer and storing at least the date and time that the

notification was made to the customer with the return-shipping label data (Figure 3 and

paragraph 36 and 38 teaches sending email notification to vendor and customer

concerning the returning product when return label is generated. Email contains time

and date and more information. Therefore, the Examiner construes that system sending

email to the vendor and customer is equivalent to recording the time and date of the

return-shipping label was made available to the customer because email contains time

and date information); and

    making available to the merchant computer over the network via service provider

computer at least the date and time that the notification was made to the customer

(Figure 3 and paragraph 36 and 38 teaches sending email notification to vendor and

customer concerning the returning product when return label is generated. Email

contains time and date and more information. Therefore, the Examiner construes that

system sending email to the vendor and customer is equivalent to recording the time

and date of the return-shipping label was made available to the customer because email

contains time and date information).

    The Examiner notes, executing the application with the merchant computer to

generate an electronic return-shipping label for transmission to the customer via a

network is dependent on the phrase "in response to the customer's communication …"

This phrase is a conditional limitation. The noted step is not necessarily performed.

Accordingly, once the positively recited steps are satisfied, the method as a whole is

satisfied -- regardless of whether or not other steps are conditionally invocable under

certain other hypothetical scenarios. [See: In re Johnston, 77 USPQ2d 1788 (CA FC

2006); Intel Corp. v. Int'l Trade Comm'n, 20 USPQ2d 1161 (Fed. Cir. 1991); MPEP

§2106 II C].

As per Claim 19, Tibbs teaches wherein the notification is an email notification

provided to an email address of the customer, which e-mail address has been provided

from the merchant computer to the service provider computer in the data necessary for

shipping the item (Paragraph 38).

As per Claim 20, Tibbs teaches wherein the data necessary for shipping the

item includes a return location address (Paragraph 32).

4.   **Claims 12 - 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable**

over Tibbs and Tsunenari as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of

www.buy.com.

As per Claim 12, Tibbs and Tsunenari's combination teaches all the elements of the claimed invention but is silent regarding wherein the method is used for monitoring the use of a return-shipping label in the shipment of an electronic device.

www.buy.com discloses wherein the method is used for monitoring the use of a return-shipping label in the shipment of an electronic device (Front page).

All the component parts are known in Tibbs and Tsunenari's combination and www.buy.com. The only difference is the combination of the "old elements" into a single system by Tibbs and Tsunenari's combination to sell electronic device online.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art to combine selling electronic devices and generating return-shipping label as known methods with no change in their respective functions, and combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

As per Claim 13, Tibbs and Tsunenari's combination teaches all the elements of the claimed invention but is silent regarding wherein the electronic device is one or more chosen from the group consisting of a computer, video projector, television, video recorder, stereo device, audio recorder, video display device, radio receiver, radio transmitter, two-way communication device, cellular telephone, digital telephone, analog telephone, personal digital assistant, printer, facsimile device, copier, paging device, camera, and combinations thereof.

www.buy.com discloses wherein the electronic device is one or more chosen from the group consisting of a computer, video projector, television, video recorder,

stereo device, audio recorder, video display device, radio receiver, radio transmitter,

two-way communication device, cellular telephone, digital telephone, analog telephone,

personal digital assistant, printer, facsimile device, copier, paging device, camera, and

combinations thereof (Front Page).

All the component parts are known in Tibbs and Tsunenari's combination and

www.buy.com. The only difference is the combination of the "old elements" into a single

system by Tibbs and Tsunenari's combination to sell electronic device online and

electronics are defined as a computer, video projector, television, video recorder, stereo

device, audio recorder, video display device, radio receiver, radio transmitter, two-way

communication device, cellular telephone, digital telephone, analog telephone, personal

digital assistant, printer, facsimile device, copier, paging device, or camera.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art to

combine selling electronic devices and generating return-shipping label as known

methods with no change in their respective functions, and combination would have

yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

Response to Arguments

5.   Applicant's arguments filed 13 October 2008 have been fully considered but they

are not persuasive.

The Examiner notes, said applicant's claim amendment, necessitated the new

grounds of rejection. Claims 9 and 18 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Tibbs et al. (Hereinafter Tibbs) (US 20020010689) in view of

Tsunenari et al. (Hereinafter Tsunenari) (US 20020013744), however after a

reevaluation of the references, in view of said applicant's claim amendment, a

rearrangement of the rejection occurred.

    The Applicant first argues, "Tibbs does not disclose recording a date and time of

the network request or making the date and time of the network request available to the

merchant." The Examiner respectfully disagrees. In response to applicant's arguments

against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking

references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references.

See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.,* 800

F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

    The Applicant next argues, "*Tsunenari* does not disclose storing the time and

date on a service provider computer and making the time and date available to the

merchant." The Examiner respectfully disagrees. In response to applicant's arguments

against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking

references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references.

See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.,* 800

F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Conclusion

6.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in

this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).

       A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

       Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Ig T. An whose telephone number is (571)270-5110.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 9:30 AM to 5 PM

EST.

       If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Matthew S. Gart can be reached on 571-272-3955. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Matthew S Gart/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3687

/Ig T. An/
Examiner, Art Unit 3687